

# Yellowhead County's Yellowheadlines

Spring 2014  
A Bi-Annual Newsletter  
Published for the Residents of  
Yellowhead County

## Locals Keep Robb Recreation Facility Going Strong

### ROBB COMMUNITY CENTRE

Communities are held together by people, tradition, values and events. The Robb Community Centre has been designed to be the heart of a vibrant Robb community. Two community groups – the Robb Recreation Board and the Robb Curling Club – partnered together to help create a facility that has become the focal point for every resident in Robb.

In the past, the two community groups operated out of neighbouring facilities. The Curling Rink, had structural issues and the seventy year old Robb community hall was also nearing the end of its lifespan.

### TWO BIRDS WITH ONE ROCK

During community discussions residents realized that one centre could do the work of two and greatly enhance the viability of Robb. The new Multiplex was designed to replace the old curling rink, but was also designed to serve as the replacement for the old community hall. The new facility was only in the conceptual and planning stages in the winter of 2004 when the community's curling facility was closed due to structural concerns.

The Robb Curling Club, the Robb Recreation Board, and Yellowhead County partnered together to look at a variety of options for reconstruction and formed a working group for this purpose, the working group began a fundraising initiative to secure corporate sponsorship of the new facility.

The Robb Community Centre De-

velopment Committee also helped design the facility to meet the needs of everyone in the community and made it a goal to have a facility that would benefit everyone in Robb in order to continue to have a strong, lively community which will carry on into the next century.

### DYNAMIC DUO

Father and son team Clarence and Al Willows are among the many volunteers that help keep the multiplex running smoothly on a day to day basis. They have been working together over the years to make sure the ice in the curling rink is maintained and that the ice plant is running smoothly during the curling season to ensure that the group of dedicated local curlers have every opportunity they can to get out on the rink and throw some rocks around.

Al, who took a specialized course in Edmonton to be able to run the ice system, gets assistance from his dad

when he's away at work. "When Al is on his four days [at shift work]," says Clarence, "I check [the ice and system] everyday." Readings from the ice plant are meticulously recorded and adjustments are made to make sure everything is ready to go for the next game at the rink.

The \$1.3 million Community Centre has become the centre of action for the community and has become part of everyone's life in Robb. Community activities include dances, curling bonspiels, children's activities, public meetings, birthdays, seasonal parties and events.

**As a central meeting place, the majority of events that happen in Robb take place in this community centre.**



The Robb Community Centre, designed by Alastair Cockburn Architect Ltd., includes: two sheet curling rink, viewing/lounge/multipurpose area, kitchen, washrooms, main entrance, ice plant and storage area.

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# 2014 COUNTY BUDGET

## NO INCREASE FOR RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

**O**n April 22, 2014 Yellowhead County Council adopted the 2014 Budget and tax rate bylaw with a 0% increase for the residential tax rate and a 3.25% increase for the non-residential tax rate. The 2014 Budget includes all the necessary programs and services, Urban Revenue-Sharing, and other planned projects without having to introduce financial borrowing to pay for current or upcoming 2014 projects.

“This budget is part of the prudent, long-term planning that Council is encouraging through balancing current and future projects with services essential to a diverse and growing population,” explains Mayor Gerald Soroka. “Keeping taxes at a manageable level for County residents and

having only a modest increase in the tax rate for non-residential taxes allows our businesses to be productive and plan for future growth in a sustainable manner.”

The 2014 tax rate consists of three components being a rate for each of municipal purposes, school tax, and seniors’ housing. The 2014 tax rate for municipal purposes for Yellowhead County is 2.4585 for Residential and Farmland and 6.3658 for Non-Residential. The County budget for 2014 is \$131 million dollars and that includes approximately 22.5 million for school taxes and seniors’ housing, 43.5 million for municipal operating costs, 55.5 million for capital projects and 10 million for non-cash items such as amortization. The 55.5 million for capital proj-

ects includes approximately 20.7 million dollars worth of project completion delayed from 2013 due mainly to weather delays on road projects.

The County is required to collect school taxes, on behalf of the Province, and funds for seniors’ housing on behalf of the Evergreen Foundation. The rate for these taxes is set by the amount of the annual requisition and while it is collected by the County the funds are then paid out to the respective groups.

Council voted to provide \$6.5 million in funding to Edson and \$2.4 million to Hinton to support various initiatives including cost-sharing and revenue-sharing. Council also budgeted \$4 million

to support the partnership with Edson to oversize the sewer line planned for west of Edson to accommodate future growth in Yellowhead County.

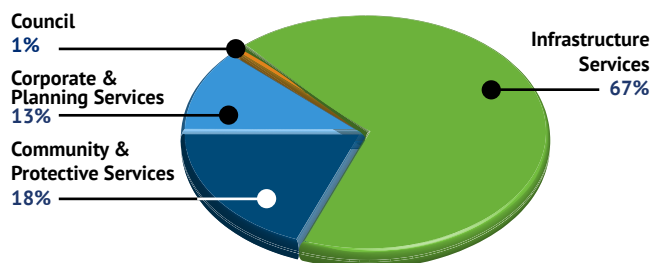
Yellowhead County has planned for a diverse range of projects that will be beneficial to the residents of Yellowhead County. “It’s important to evaluate our priorities for Yellowhead County and design a budget to fit the cost requirements for those projects,” says Mayor Soroka. “A balanced budget was presented and adopted by Yellowhead County Council allowing us to continue to bring the required services to County residents and businesses.”

### SOME OF THE 2014 COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Division 1:	Tipple Park Museum	\$1,952,314
	Evansburg Fire Water Tanker Truck	\$260,000
	Evansburg Rescue Equipment & Retrofit	\$79,300
	Evansburg Arena Lighting	\$10,388
Division 1/2:	TWP Road 532 (RR 81-83, RR 84-85)	\$620,000
Division 2:	Wildwood North Road Study (N. of TWP 544 to Hwy22)	\$425,000
	Culvert on RR93 (North of Wildwood)	\$622,000
	TWP 533 (RR 94-95)	\$245,000
Division 3:	Niton North Road Grading	\$2,387,938
	Niton North Road Paving	\$9,107,426
	RR 133 (Hwy 16 to TWP 540)	\$325,000
	TWP 541B	\$100,000
Division 4:	Peers Recreation Facility Design	\$4,140,254
	Peers Cut-Across Paving (Township Road 542)	\$6,421,591
	TWP 550A	\$367,927
Division 5/6:	Future Rosevear Bridge Study	\$985,000
Division 5:	Wolf Lake Rd (RR 150) Bridge File#1329 (N. of Hwy 16)	\$349,115
Division 6:	RR 165 Study (Wolf Creek Rd. to Hwy 748)	\$150,000
Division 7:	Hwy 947	\$6,604,502
	Marlboro Initial Attack Firefighting Apparatus	\$250,000
Division 8:	Robb Firehall	\$910,000
	Robb Gazebo	\$60,000
	David Thompson signage	\$28,000
County Wide:	Communication Towers Expansion	\$1,500,000

### HOW YOUR 2014 TAX DOLLAR IS SPENT.

A breakdown on how each dollar you pay in taxes contributes to Yellowhead County services.



### TAX PAYMENT REMINDER

**The deadline for paying taxes is June 30, 2014.**

Payments must be postmarked on/or before June 30, 2014.

#### Payment Options:

- Edson or Wildwood Yellowhead County Offices (drop box available after hours at Edson location only)
- At your Chartered Bank or Credit Union
- Telephone Banking
- Internet banking (Your Tax Roll Number is your Account number)

A penalty will be applied to all 2014 tax levies that are outstanding after the due date.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2014

DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, AND LONG-TERM PLANNING PRIORITIES FOR COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLANNING AND HAMLET DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTINUE TO BE TOP PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL

In JANUARY 2014, Yellowhead County Council attended a Strategic Planning Workshop to set their priorities for the upcoming year. The workshop provided an opportunity to review existing priorities and to see if any new priorities had developed since the last Strategic Planning session.

The goal of the planning session was for Council to come away with a clear picture of a long-term vision for the county that balances these goals with the available resources.

Council looked at all the issues and projects that affect Yellowhead County's residents and businesses by investigating: all the challenges around the different topics, identifying desired outcomes, and developing an action plan listing all the resources needed to accomplish the specific projects. The outcome of the session was a fully realized and feasible Strategic Topic List.

The outcomes from the workshop resulted in specific priorities for Council's attention that were labelled "Now", as well as "Next" and "Later".

The Strategic Topic List consists of twelve projects identified as the most important issues for the development of Yellowhead County. Some issues, such as hamlet development and waste management, are carried over from the previous years' priorities; and there are others that, due to work accomplished over the past year or changes in the political environment, are no longer on the list.

Of these twelve issues, five were identified as areas that should be

addressed "Now" due to either their need for immediate progression because of either upcoming deadlines or the necessity to address the issue immediately, or due to currently available resources and appropriate timing.

The Current "NOW" priorities are:

1. Serviced Industrial Lands (Edson west area)
2. Council/Public Community Outreach
3. Internet/Cell services
4. Robb Land Development
5. Capital Plan

While not all the items in the list are under the County's jurisdiction there were items that were deemed to be of an importance to the County and its residents. These include Seniors lodging, and provincial policing in regards to the safety and security of County residents and businesses. Council will play an advocacy role in moving these issues forward where possible.

Among the many areas of interest discussed, Yellowhead County's Road Classification and Standards System, and the Road Maintenance Program were two topics brought back as key issues that Council wants to focus on in 2014. Council's objective for this topic is to look at what strategies and resources are currently allocated to road infrastructure services and to consider different ways to build, maintain and repair the County's over 2,300 kilometers of paved, oil, and gravel roads.

The Strategic Priorities List is for Yellowhead County's elected of-

icials to refer to throughout the year as they make decisions, set policy, and develop strategies that benefit the growth and development of Yellowhead County.

## 2014 STRATEGIC TOPICS

1. INTERNET/CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY
2. ROSEVEAR BRIDGE
3. EVANSBURG WATER/SEWER
4. CAPITAL PLAN
5. HAMLET SUSTAINABILITY
6. ROBB CONTAMINATED SITE (ROBB LAND DEVELOPMENT)
7. LONG RANGE ROAD PLAN
8. CRIME/POLICING
9. COMMUNITY GROUP FUNDING
10. MARLBORO SERVICES
11. SENIORS HOUSING
12. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (COUNCIL/PUBLIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH)
13. ROAD MAINTENANCE
14. SERVICE INDUSTRIAL LAND (EDSON WEST AREA)
15. WASTE MANAGEMENT

# WHAT IS THE RURAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY?

**Rural Communications Strategic Planning** – Rural municipalities face difficult choices as their economies evolve from dependence on agriculture and natural-resource-based industries to dependence on less traditional economic sources such as light manufacturing and knowledge based businesses. A knowledge based economy is seen as the latest stage in global economic restructuring. Workforces in the emerging knowledge based economy are characterized as being capable of accessing and managing information.

**To remain productive it is critical that rural residents and businesses have access to reliable and scalable communication networks. For this reason, rural communications is defined as the fourth utility unlike water, power, and natural gas. Many governments in the world have recognized that rural communications is the fourth utility and as a result have implemented regulations to ensure that the communication services provided support the rural community's community and economic requirements.**

Rural communications encompasses different wireless communication networks including broadband (Internet), mobility (cellular), and public safety (fire, ambulance, police). The business case to provide adequate wireless coverage often breaks down in rural areas where the population densities are lower and the capital cost of implementing a wireless network exceeds potential revenues. As a result most rural wireless networks do not provide adequate coverage in rural areas due to the high cost of implementing and operating the network.

Rural communications is becoming an integral component of a rural municipality's

education, economic, employment, and health systems. Rural municipalities must recognize that rural communications is a utility and as a utility develop and implement a Rural Communications Strategic Plan.

## Utility Communications Strategy

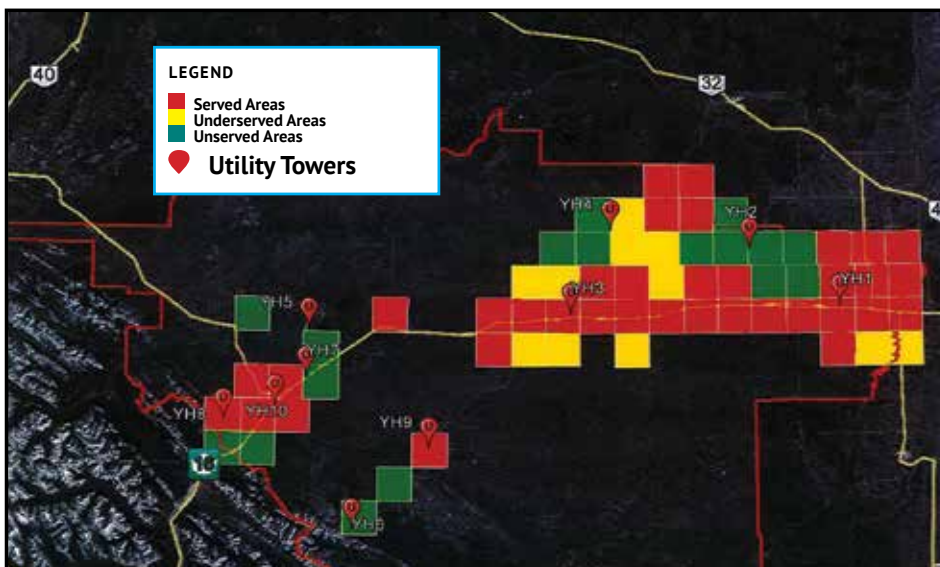
The utility communications strategy is similar to constructing a roadway or a water line. The strategy recognizes that communications is a "Utility", a critical component of the municipality's infrastructure.

The municipality builds utility grade towers (Infrastructure), contracts out its operation, and leases tower space to wireless providers that deliver the "Final Mile" service to the rural resident and businesses. The tower network supports the full range of wireless services, including: broadband, mobility, and public safety communications. This strategy is sustained by collecting collocation revenue from multiple wireless providers that collocate on the utility-grade towers.

In order for the rural municipality to take advantage of the emerging knowledge-based economy it is critical that the municipality

develop and implement a Rural Communications Strategic Plan. The initial strategic plan would be based on current broadband, mobility and public safety coverage, and the availability of capital funding to build the wireless networks. Similar to other utilities the municipality would revisit the plan during the budgeting cycle each year and adjust it as required. Having a rural communications strategic plan provides the rural municipality both short term and long term benefits.

**Rural communications is becoming an integral component of a rural municipality's education, economic, employment, and health systems.**



# YELLOWHEAD COUNTY MUNICIPAL ACCESS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## Why Can't I Have More Than One Access to My Land?

By decreasing the number of intersections along a roadway, it reduces the number of driver decisions that need to be made, as well as the number of possible conflict points with other vehicles. In short, proper access management is a key factor in preserving or improving the safety record of roadways.

Proper access management on roadways promotes traffic safety. In general, 24% of all reported collisions on rural highways in Alberta were the consequence of a vehicle running off the road. Of these, 32% resulted in a personal injury and an additional 2% resulted in a fatality. By limiting the number of accesses, the frequency and severity of collisions is reduced.

## Why Must My Access Be Constructed to Such Specific Standards When Others Down the Road Aren't?

Road standards and guidelines are changing. When an existing access is upgraded, or a new access is being installed, these must be built to the standard of the day. While a new access is required to be built to meet the current requirements, an access down the road may have been constructed to a different set of guidelines. The goal is that eventually, all accesses and roadways will reflect the most up to date standard. Please refer to Section 7.3.6 of Yellowhead County's Design Standards.

## Why Do I need a Permit for an Access?

Any developed public land requires the permission of Yellowhead County. A permit is required for all means of access to ensure that all accesses along highways are built to standard. By maintaining a high standard of roadway we are able to facilitate safe and efficient movement of vehicles.

## Who is the First Point of Contact For Any New Access?

The County's Infrastructure Services Department is the first point of contact for any new access within the County. Contact information is available on the County website.

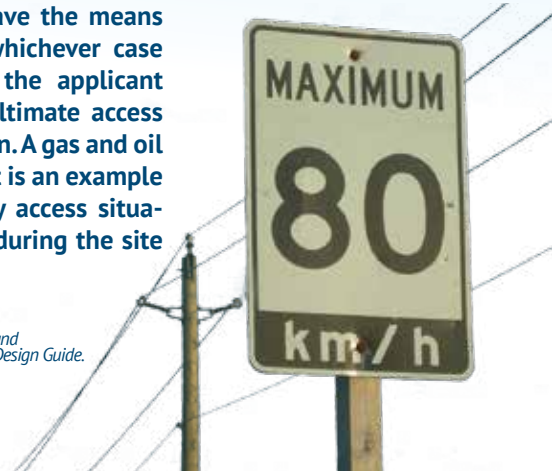
## Who Should Pay for a New Access or Modification of an Existing Access?

In cases where the County approves applications for new means of access or requires the improvement (intersectional treatment) of an existing means of access as a result of a particular development/subdivision, the applicant will be responsible for the cost and construction.

## Can I Obtain a Temporary Access?

Temporary accesses are generally avoided, however, there may be cases where such an access is acceptable. When a temporary access is to be considered, the application should clearly state the temporary nature together with a specified time after which the applicant will discontinue the use of the means of access or cause to have the means of access removed, whichever case applies. In addition, the applicant should identify the ultimate access plan on the application. A gas and oil well site development is an example of where a temporary access situation may be allowed during the site preparation.

*Adapted from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Highway Geometric Design Guide.*



## YOUR COUNCIL



Mayor  
Gerald Soroka



Councillor  
Sandra  
Cherniawsky  
Division 1  
Evansburg &  
Area



Councillor  
Anthony Giezen  
Division 2  
Wildwood &  
Area



Councillor  
Fred Priestley-  
Wright  
Division 3  
Niton/Carrot  
Creek Area



Councillor  
David Russell  
Division 4  
Shiningbank/  
Peers Area



Councillor  
Shawn Berry  
Division 5  
Wolf Creek/  
Pindale Area



Councillor  
Bill Velichko  
Division 6  
Edson Area



Councillor  
Dawn Mitchell  
Division 7  
Edson West



Councillor  
Jack Williams  
Division 8  
Robb, Cadomin,  
Brule & Hinton  
Area

# DUST CONTROL

**N**o two ways about it, unpaved roads generate dust. When traffic reaches specific levels, Yellowhead County will treat some roads to suppress the dust, but dust is still part of life for most rural residents.

Residents can also choose to pay to have dust control agents applied to their section of the road.

Yellowhead County will apply calcium chloride at no charge for safety reasons in the following areas:

- In school and playground zones.
- At major intersections and/or poor alignments considered hazardous due to dust.
- At major railway crossings.

**How can I make a request to have the dust control agents applied to my section of the road?**

Applicants may apply for either one spring, or one fall application, or they may apply for both. Applications are available to be picked up at Yellowhead County's Edson, or Wildwood offices. They are also available on Yellowhead County's web site under the Transportation Section in the sub-section called "Forms".

**How much does it cost?**

The cost for a resident for one 200 meters application of calcium chloride is \$312. The charge represents approximately 50 per cent of total cost of the application - with the County covering the remaining cost.

**Can I request more than 200 meters of dust control?**

Yes, however, requests for applications over 200 m in length must pay 100% of the full costs as per County policy.

**When are the dust control agents applied?**

The application of the calcium chloride used for dust control will be restricted to one spring and one late summer application. Spring applications must be received by May 15. Fall applications must be received by July 31.

**What does Yellowhead County currently use as dust control agents?**

Yellowhead County uses calcium chloride as a dust control agent.

## AG RENTAL EQUIPMENT

**The Agricultural Services Board strives to promote improved agricultural practices within the County. The rental program is one method used to achieve this goal.**

The program objective is to rent equipment on a cost-recovery basis that is:

- Not available from local private rental agents
- Not in constant use by ratepayers
- A specialized piece of equipment
- Related to a program sponsored by the board

The program also maintains spray equipment that can be utilized by landowners complying with the weed control policy.

Equipment can be rented from:

- Ditner's Feed Service & Supply Ltd.: 780-325-3828
- Country Farm and Feed: 780-693-0121
- Har-De Agri Services Inc: 780-727-2806

A complete list of all the equipment can be found on the County's website.



## WEED INSPECTION PROGRAM

**Yellowhead County's weed inspection team continues to try to increase public awareness of invasive plants through information sessions, personal contacts with landowners, information letters and presentations.**

If you are interested in obtaining information or involved in any type of group where weeds or their control might be of interest, please call Yellowhead County's Agricultural Services at the Yellowhead County Community Services Building in Wildwood at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935 or go to the County website for more detailed information.

We would love to meet with you, and we can give you recommendations for effective control, help you develop a management plan or provide you with rental equipment for plant control.

# ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY BEGAN ITS ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN IN 2012. THIS IS NOW THE THIRD YEAR OF A THREE-YEAR INTENSIVE ROADSIDE BRUSHING PROGRAM.

**The program** lays the foundation for more effective management of county roads resulting in better road drainage, increased public safety and reduced costs for road maintenance and roadside vegetation control.

**Newly mulched areas** will be sprayed the following year to limit regrowth. After the initial phases of the project, all roadsides will be mowed each year, and right-of-ways mowed every three years.

Please contact Yellowhead County Transportation Department for more information.

# ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO CLEANING UP THE VARIOUS SPECIES OF WEEDS AND ENCROACHING BRUSH ON ITS MUNICIPAL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND LANDS.

**Since 2010 the** Yellowhead County Roadside Vegetation Control team has adopted a two-year rotation throughout the County. They treat more than 1,000 kilometres of roadsides per season with two injection spray trucks. All spray applications are GPS-tracked so that they can monitor progress, avoid sensitive areas and minimize misapplications.

**Each year the team** starts in a new area, working east to west or west to east, to target the invasive species and encroaching brush at a different time each year to maximize the program's efficacy.

**If you see our team** out there working, please feel free to ask questions about the program, including herbicide application, rental equipment and weed identification.

## 2014 YELLOWHEAD COUNTY ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Yellowhead County Agriculture Department began spraying roadsides within the county starting in May and will continue until mid/late September, depending on weather conditions and length of growing season. Spot herbicide applications and other integrated management practices will be used throughout the County to control weeds and brush species.

**Spraying of roadsides is done to control the spread of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds and re-growth of small brush. Most weed species are very prolific seed producers and can produce as many as 300,000 seeds per plant. These seeds can then germinate the following growing season or lay dormant in the soil for a number of years until growing conditions are favorable for germination. Many deep rooted perennials spread via the root system, therefore a single plant left alone can result in a heavy infestation in a relatively short period of time.**

Weed infestations can invade and become the dominant plant species on any given parcel of land causing a number of problems such as:

1. They limit light and moisture availability to cereal and hay crops thus reducing yields and resulting in dockage
2. They pose a serious environmental threat to native vegetation and habitats in sensitive areas because of their competitive nature
3. They are expensive to control for adjacent land owners who are subject to their spread
4. They are responsible for livestock poisoning
5. They can pose a serious fire hazards
6. They obstruct visibility along roadsides and intersections

Brush left to grow along roadsides also poses various problems:

1. The obstruction of visibility along roadsides and intersections creating a situation which allows wildlife to jump onto the roadway unseen
2. Roads tend to retain moisture longer requiring more maintenance
3. They can pose a serious fire hazard creates snow removal and dust trap problems

The herbicides which will be used this upcoming season include; Lontrel – PCP # 23545, Escort – PCP # 23005, ClearView – PCP #29752, Transline – PCP # 24085, Vantage XRT – PCP # 29994, Banvel VM – PCP # 29249, Arsenal – PCP # 23713, Garlon RTU – PCP # 29334, Garlon XRT – PCP # 28945, Tordon 101 – PCP #9007, 2,4-D Amine -PCP# 14726 and Milestone – PCP # 28137. These products are best suited for Yellowhead County's Management Plan. Some of these herbicides have residual characteristics so ratepayers should not be using roadside soil in their gardens.

Residents who have any concerns or questions with respect to the spraying of roadsides in their area are urged to contact the Agricultural Department at 1-800-814-3935 or (780) 325-3782.

# YELLOWHEAD COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION GRANTS

## NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING SOON!

### Community Hall/Outdoor Amenity Capital Assistance Grant

- Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding assistance with capital projects which could include renovations, repairs, furniture purchases, equipment purchases, new facility, new outdoor amenity, etc.
- Grant Deadlines: September 30, December 31, March 31, **June 15** (reviewed quarterly)

### Recreation Program & Event Grant

- Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding up to \$2000 for programs and events that provide cultural, fitness, sport and/or other recreational opportunities to the community
- Grant Deadlines: September 30, December 31, March 31, **June 15** (reviewed quarterly)



### Community Hall Operational Grant

- Registered non-profit groups will be eligible for operational assistance if they are operating a community hall
- Grant Deadline: March 31 (reviewed annually)

### Outdoor Amenity Operational Grant

- Registered non-profit groups will be eligible for operational assistance if they are operating an outdoor amenity
- Amenities include: playgrounds, ski trails, outdoor skating rinks, ball diamonds, soccer pitch, riding arena, hiking trails
- Grant deadline: March 31 (reviewed annually)

### Art & Recreation Initiatives Fund

- Registered non-profit groups will be eligible to apply for funding for new initiatives in recreation and culture facilities, programs and services that will have ongoing benefits to the community
- Grant Deadlines: September 30, December 31, March 31, **June 15** (reviewed quarterly)



The next application deadline for the submission of all grants is **June 15, 2014**. Applications can be found at [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca) or picked up at the County offices in Edson or Wildwood. For more information contact Crystal McNernie at 780-723-4800.

## TÊTE JAUNE A.K.A. YELLOWHEAD

THE YELLOWHEAD HAS A LONG HISTORY OF BEING AN ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTE

*-submitted by Galloway Museum and Visitor Information Centre*

**A** favoured route of the Métis and Iroquois fur traders was the Yellowhead Pass, which meanders through the rugged Rocky Mountains from Jasper to Tête Jaune Cache. In less than one hundred years, this Pass evolved from a barely passable trail to a major transportation corridor.

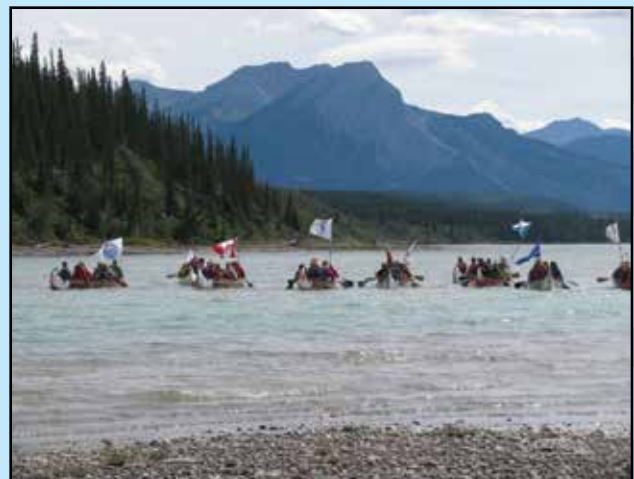
An Iroquois Métis trapper and guide, Pierre Bostonais, first led Hudson's Bay Company fur traders over the Yellowhead Pass in 1825. The legendary blonde, blue-eyed guide was nick named Tête Jaune, meaning Yellow Head. To this day, the surrounding county and a portion of the highway bear his name.

Abandoned by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1830 the Yellowhead Pass was still periodically used by Iroquois, Métis and other groups to hunt and trap west of the mountains. In the 1860s small parties of miners used the Pass to get to the Cariboo gold field. In 1872 the Canadian Pacific Railway selected the Yellowhead Pass as their favoured railway route, but eventually rejected it for a more southerly passage. However, the fiercely competitive Grande Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railway both built transcontinental lines through the Pass in the early part of the twentieth century.

Seen as a natural transporta-

tion route, in 1921 a group of Edmontonians banded together and lobbied for the construction of a highway from Edmonton to Jasper. In 1947, a group of more than 100 communities from Manitoba

to BC presented a brief to the federal government advocating a Trans-Canada highway system. Finally, in 1970, the Yellowhead Highway was officially opened.





# 4 GREAT COUNTY FARMERS' MARKETS

A GREAT PLACE TO SHOP IN A RELAXED, FUN ATMOSPHERE WHILE RECEIVING THE HIGHEST QUALITY PRODUCTS.



**Yellowhead County residents have four places throughout the county to head down to an Alberta Approved Farmer's Market during the summer to buy locally made goods. Farmers' Markets are held in Evansburg, Wildwood, Edson, and Hinton and boast an assortment of local and Alberta made products.**

The Alberta Approved Farmers' Market Program is an Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) program and must meet the requirements as approved by the ministry.

One of these requirements is the 80/20 rule, assuring that farmer's market visitors get an a good variety of vendor made products.

All official Alberta Approved Farmers' Markets must follow the "Make It, Bake It, Grow It" philosophy where Alberta approved Farmers' Markets provide

a direct contact for consumers to producers. One of the requirement for an ARD approved market is that 80% of the vendors must meet the "make it, bake it, grow it" criteria. According to the ARD website this gives visitors a chance to talk to the person that grew the vegetables, raised and cured the meat, baked the bread, produced the jam, or knit the sweater. The remaining 20 per cent (20%) of the vendors can sell products that must "complement" the local market.

Being an official Alberta approved Farmers' Market means that when you see the Sunnysgirl logo you know you're getting a good assortment of Alberta and locally made products where you can ask the vendors who have made about the products they're selling.

Another requirement for approved farmers' markets is that they must adhere to Alberta Public Health Act food regulations ensuring visitors safe food choices when purchasing from local producers and vendors.

Farmers' markets are the #1 ag tourism attraction in Alberta. Farmers' markets provide a great shopping experience where consumers can "savour time

rather than save time". They are a chance to shop in a relaxed, fun atmosphere while receiving the highest quality products. With average spending per visit to a farmers' market at \$55 and the total estimated market value of farmers' markets equalling \$724 million, the future for farmers' markets in Alberta is growing strong and healthy.



BACKGROUND PHOTO: WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/TOMCCOCHRANE

## Farm Family Centennial Award

Council would like to acknowledge the contribution that agriculture provides to the economy, the community and the County. A new award will recognize families who continue to persevere in farming throughout the generations. This is the first year that Yellowhead County will be offering farm families an award for owning and farming the same land for 100 years. Each Farm Family Centennial Award recipient will be awarded a steel powder-coated gate sign and certificate commemorating this 100 year milestone.

The award will be given out annually and more than one family may be eligible to receive the award in a single year if they meet the requirements.

To qualify the applicant will need

to provide the following;

- 1. Land has been continuously owned and actively farmed or ranched by the applicant's family for a minimum of 100 years.**
- 2. The applicant can provide evidence of ancestral ties between the applicant and the original founder of the farm, ranch or homestead.**
- 3. The applicant can provide the date and location of the original homestead establishment verified by the Alberta Land Titles office- historic land title documents.**
- 4. The original homestead land base needs to be approximately 160 acres.**

The deadline for applications is August 31, 2014.

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BURSARY

*"School is almost out and summer plans have been made and the last thing anyone wants to think about is going back to school in September,"* says Jennifer Benson, Agricultural Services Supervisor for Yellowhead County.

But, if you're going back to school in September then you may need to start thinking of ways to fund this next stage in your life and the Agricultural Service Board of Yellowhead County may be able to help.

Selection of applicants will be based upon their residency in Yellowhead County, acceptance in a post-secondary educational institution, academic achievement, agricultural background and community and social participation. The Agricultural Service Board will review all eligible applicants and provide a recom-

mendation to Yellowhead County Council who will provide final approval for the two bursaries.

The Agricultural Service Board will provide two \$500 bursaries to students residing in Yellowhead County who have enrolled in a post-secondary institution while pursuing one of the following:

- a) Bachelor of Science in Agriculture or Environmental Sciences.
- b) Pre-Professional (pre-Med, pre-Vet).
- c) Diploma in Agriculture from a recognized School of Agriculture.
- d) Degree or diploma directly related to Agriculture from recognized community colleges or universities.

Deadline for applications, available online or at the County offices, is August 31, 2014.

# Chip Lake

*Yellowhead County has dozens of lakes and parks to explore, each with their own unique attributes. In our newsletters we're featuring several of our them and showing all the great things to see and do there.*



**How to get there:**  
**Located just northwest (9 km north and 10 km west) of Wildwood. North off Hwy 16 on Green Court Road (Range Road 92) to Township Road 544 and then 5 miles west. All roads are signed.**

As the largest lake in west central Alberta, Chip Lake is a haven for fish and fowl alike. Bird watchers, fishers, canoeists, and nature lovers are sure to enjoy the scenery. Day use and a private campground allow you to take your time and enjoy everything Chip Lake has to offer.

## Fishing

There is great fishing for Northern Pike, Ling and Perch. Once you start getting in there exploring the area and talking to local fishermen you'll quickly learn there's a great range of types of fishing within Yellowhead County.

Please refer to Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations for information regarding catch limits, bait bans and, seasonal closures. This free publication can be obtained at numerous locations including your district Fish and Wildlife offices or online at [www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs](http://www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs)

## Bird Watching

Chip Lake is well known as a bird sanctuary and is home to 127 recorded bird species including Whooping Cranes and Osprey. Prime time for bird watching is the spring and fall.

The Lobstick River is a small river originating in west-central Alberta that flows north from the foothills before entering Chip Lake. It then flows eastward through the community of Lobstick before joining the Pembina River, eventually joining the

Athabasca River. The Lobstick River took its name from the fur-trade era practice of creating lobsticks – a tall conspicuous spruce or pine tree stripped of all but its top branches and served as a trail marker or meeting place.

## Chip Lake Park

Chip Lake Park is situated right on Chip Lake and is managed by the Ravine Community Association. The park is open for camping from the May long weekend to the end of September. Fees are \$20.00 a night.

Contact Information: 1-780-898-1446

- 35 unserviced campsites
- Playground
- Day Use Area
- 2 Group Area sites
- Gazebo
- Boat Launch
- Free Firewood

The Ravine Association hosts a Music Festival that is held at the Ravine Community Hall in late May/ early June.



# CHIP LAKE STEWARDSHIP GROUP

## Chip Lake Stewardship Project



In 2012, **West-Central Forage Association** and **Yellowhead County**, as partners in the **Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture (SACA)**, secured funding with the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada to initiate a Chip Lake Stewardship Project. The project focuses on concerns that have been brought forward regarding the environmental condition of Chip Lake, the riparian area around the lake, and its adjacent landholdings.

The need for a stewardship group that will address the environmental health of Chip Lake became apparent early in the development of this project, as the support and participation of individuals that live around or near the lake and use this area for anything including supporting a farm operation, recreational activities or nature conservation is needed for the longevity of a project of this nature.

The Chip Lake Stewardship Project has three goals:

- Carry out riparian health assessments around Chip Lake to measure lake health and develop physical benchmarks by which to design future project activities and measure overall impact;
- Conduct water quality sampling and tests within Chip Lake, and at the major tributaries and outlets, to establish benchmarks and plan future activities;
- Initiate the formation of, and maintain support of, a group of stakeholders around

Chip Lake to create awareness and gain feedback in regards to the lake and ecosystem health and beneficial management practices, to maintain or improve the environmental health of Chip Lake.

### Completed to date Water Sampling

Working with the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS), as a part of their Lakewatch has allowed us to collect water samples, following the ALMS protocols, at four different



times throughout the summer. Water samples are in the process of being collated and a report will be generated by ALMS for the public.

### Events

Several events have been held to gather and disseminate information about local wildlife, water quality, and the project in general.

### Riparian Health Assessments

Ten Riparian Health Assessments have been conducted around Chip Lake and down the Lobstick River (east of the Chip Lake), six on Chip Lake's Northwest and Northern shorelines and four on the Lobstick River, following the Alberta Habitat Management Society (often referred to as Cows and Fish) Riparian Health Assessment. The sites were assessed for their vegetative characteristics (including canopy cover, invasive and disturbance vegetation, tree and shrub establishment/re-

generation, browse utilization, human alterations), and physical characteristics (including the percentage and severity of human caused alteration and bare ground, and degree of artificial water level changes).

Based on the sites assessed, the health of Chip Lake and the Lobstick's riparian areas seem to be in relatively good health; however some issues were found regarding invasive weeds and human traffic.

### Upcoming Water Sampling

SACA will be working with ALMS again this season to collect water samples on Chip Lake. This will be the third year of sampling on the lake.

We believe that the values, beliefs, attitudes and ethical concerns of all those who live around and rely on Chip Lake are vital, and if we can encourage and foster the development of a group of this nature than we can better secure a healthy ecosystem for future generations. If you would like to become involved contact the Wildwood Yellowhead County Office.

### Events

A Family Pond Day has been scheduled for June 21, at Chip Lake Park. This event will allow locals to learn about the health of the lake through learning about riparian health, water quality, aquatic insects, invasive plants, soil and soil organisms, and wildlife and their habitat. A representative from ALMS will also be in attendance to discuss the findings from the work done under the Chip Lake Stewardship Program.

# YELLOWHEAD COUNTY CEMETERY GRANTS

## INCREASED AMOUNTS AND MORE OPTIONS FOR CEMETERY UPKEEPING & SPECIAL PROJECTS



Within Yellowhead County there are numerous cemeteries from east to west, from historical ones located high on rugged mountain tops within the Rocky Mountains in the west to active ones within residential hamlets and farming communities in the east.

The county maintains a registry of most of the cemeteries that exist in the Yellowhead County and has recently adopted a new policy to assist with funding for groups who do regular maintenance of these cemeteries or are looking to do special projects or upgrades as Yellowhead County Council recognizes the necessary service provided by cemeteries for the burial of remains and ashes and for providing a place that acknowledges the life of those individuals who have lived in and contributed to our community. Yellowhead County is helping provide financial assistance for community groups that are providing care for cemetery sites in Yellowhead County.

The majority of these cemeteries are owned and operated by non-profit societies who also maintain the cemetery records.

### Cemetery Grants Policy

Yellowhead County Council recognizes the necessary service provided by cemeteries for burial of remains and ashes and for providing a place that acknowledges the lives of individuals who have lived in and contributed to our community. The policy lists guidelines for Council and managerial guidelines for County staff, as well as grant funding guidelines that can be utilized by groups actively maintaining these cemeteries. The available grants will cover up to 50% of the cost for capital or maintenance costs – the contribution from the cemetery organization can be from financial costs or volunteer work. The policy allows up to \$2,500 for larger cemeteries, any additional funding can be requested directly from Council.

## EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF CEMETERIES IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

1. A number of inactive burial sites/cemeteries in the County on Crown land with one being maintained by a volunteer group with support from the province and the leaseholder - Mountain Park Cemetery.
2. A number of known (and likely unknown) burial sites on private land in Yellowhead County that are not maintained.
3. Two known inactive cemeteries on County land that are not being maintained - Mercoal and Brule Mines Cemeteries.
4. Cemeteries that are owned and operated by religious organizations that do not allow burials for the general public, ie. will only allow burials from their religious order.
5. Cemeteries that are owned by religious organizations but that are operated by community groups and that allow burials for the general public.
6. Cemeteries that are owned and operated by community groups and that:
  - are managing fine with volunteer labour and donations, or
  - are struggling to maintain their sites due to the size of the cemetery and/or lack of volunteer support and donations
7. Cemeteries that are owned by Yellowhead County and operated/maintained by community groups - St. Paul's Lutheran (Rosevear, inactive), Hattonford & District (active) and Coal Branch (Robb, active).
8. Cemeteries that are owned and operated by Yellowhead County - Evansburg Cemetery.

# EVANSBURG MUSEUM UPDATE

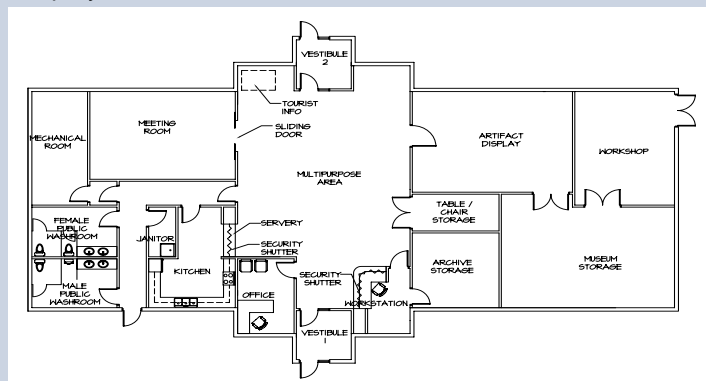
## A NEW BUILDING WILL ON THE EVANSBURG LANDSCAPE THIS YEAR!

The final touches on the construction drawings are being completed for the new Tipple Park facility and the project will be going to tender shortly. This facility will function as both a museum and as the amenities building for Tipple Park's outdoor activities.

This facility grew out of Pembina Lobstick Historical Society's request that the County support a new building to replace the station house. The station house no longer is not able to accommodate the space and year round needs of the Society. The building envelope, structure and servicing are not adequate for a museum and archives centre.

The Society and an ad hoc committee of community volunteers have assisted the County over the last 2 years to develop a facility that will provide space for artifacts display and storage,

travelling exhibits, community use space and accessible bathrooms for the facility and the park. Watch for the progress of the project this summer!



# PEERS RECREATION FACILITY UPDATE



Construction on the new Peers Community Multiplex is well underway and is slated to be completed in August 2014.

The new facility will feature a two-sheet curling facility, multipurpose room, games room, fully equipped kitchen and lounge area.

There are three existing community groups within the Peers area working together to oversee the operations of the centre. They are considering forming a new society with a shared vision of where this facility will go over the coming years.

It's an exciting time in Peers!

# KEEP IT CLEAN!

YELLOWHEAD COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING ITS LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFUL AND CLEAN THROUGH VARIOUS INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

## Where Does Your Garbage Go?

- Landfills
- Transfer Stations
- Recycling
- Composting
- Ag Recycling
- Sani-Dump

Household and other waste removal can be more expensive in a rural area than in a city. In some cases, your trash dumpster may be several kilometres from your home. It is illegal to dump your trash within the County, even if it's on your own land. In some cases, your only option may be to haul your garbage

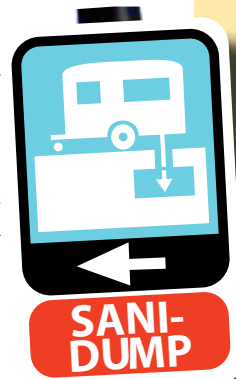
and recyclables to the landfill and transfer station yourself. The County covers the cost for County residents using the landfill and transfers stations and has recycling stations at a few locations



within the county and in Edson and Hinton.

Another way that the County is working to keep its backyard in pristine condition is its contribu-

tion to the recently constructed RV sani-dump in Edson. The County has supported this initiative for many years, as it supports the County's environmental goals for dealing with sewage effluent from County campground users and random campers in the area. Council contributed to the RV sani-dump station as part of a Municipal Cost Sharing agreement with Edson.



## ANIMAL AND DOG OWNERSHIP IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY: WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

**COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT THEIR PETS MUST BE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THEIR PROPERTY OR LEASHED AT ALL TIMES.**

**No owner is allowed** to let their pets roam free or become a nuisance to other landowners and passersby. The Animal Bylaw 03.06 Section 8 lays out specific regulations for owners in caring for their pets.

**Yellowhead County** residents are also responsible for any other domestic animal or livestock in their ownership.

**Community Peace** Officers regularly patrol the County, enforcing the animal bylaw and all other Yellowhead

County bylaws. Animals may be impounded for infractions and owners may face impound fees and/or fines in that circumstance.

**Yellowhead County** strongly urges its residents to properly care for their animals and ensure that they are not a threat to any surrounding neighbours.

**If you have** any questions regarding the Yellowhead County Animal Bylaw, please contact Yellowhead County Bylaw Enforcement at the Yellowhead County Administration Office at 780-723-4800 or 1-800-665-6030 or the Yellowhead County Community Services Building in Wildwood at 780-325-3782 or 1-800-814-3935.

**Dogs that have** been picked up by Yellowhead County Enforcement Services under the Animal Control Bylaw are taken to the Edson Pound. To contact the Edson Pound call 780-723-6461.

**The entire bylaw** may be viewed online at [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca).



**County dog owners are required to prevent their dogs from:**

- Running at large
- Howling excessively or disturbing the peace of others
- Causing damage to public or private property
- Biting, attacking, threatening, chasing, or injuring any person or other animals
- Biting or chasing any vehicle

# FIREWORKS

## FIREWORKS USAGE RESTRICTED IN YELLOWHEAD COUNTY

**A reminder to all residents and visitors that personal/low-hazard\* fireworks are not permitted anywhere within Yellowhead County. Anyone who sets off fireworks could be fined or charged under county bylaws.**

Although low hazard fireworks are not allowed to be set off in Yellowhead County, certified professionals are allowed to operate higher-grade fireworks displays that would be used for special events such as Canada Day and New Year's Eve. These types of fireworks can only be obtained and used by someone certified by the Explosives Regulatory Division/Natural Resources Canada.

The intent of this ban is to ensure safety for the residents

and visitors to Yellowhead County, as well as to protect the county for potential liability issues.

Please stay safe and have fun this summer. For more information please contact the Yellowhead County Fire Department at 1-800-665-6030.

*\*Personal/Low hazard fireworks are the type often available to consumers from convenience stores, etc.*

## PERMITS REQUIRED FOR BURNING DURING 2014 FIRE SEASON

Yellowhead County Fire Services would like to remind everyone to take extra precaution prior to, and during, any type of burn on their property.

"We're encouraging everyone to take all necessary precautions prior to and during any type of burn on their property", says Chegwyn. "We're reminding everyone to make sure they have the correct fire permits for any existing fires or before starting any new fires."

Yellowhead County is divided into two separate Fire Permit Areas – one is under the County Fire Departments jurisdiction and the other is under the provinces jurisdiction.

Fire permits will be required for any new or existing burning in the Yellowhead County area, which is the area east of Highway 22 and north of Highway 16.

Permits for campground fires within this area are not required by Yellowhead County. Yellowhead County fire permits are free and available by contacting either Yellowhead County offices and talking with the appointed Fire Guardians for Yellowhead County.

The remainder of the County is under the authority of Alberta's Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) department who also requiring permits as of April 1, 2014 for the 2014 fire season. Residents living in these areas within Yellowhead County should contact ESRD for the required permits.

- Fires that are not completely extinguished can smolder underground during the winter months and resurface in the spring as a wildfire.
- Dead grass and woody debris combined with windy conditions can support fast-moving wildfires.

The earlier start to the season comes from recommendations found in the Flat Top Fire Complex (Slave Lake) Review, a report prepared for ESRD, which states that fire preparation needs to start earlier in the year. Yellowhead County continues to work with the province to have similarly aligned restrictions.

To report a fire call 911 or the Alberta Wildfire Hotline at 310-FIRE.



- Fire incidents can be reduced by keeping burns small and by always having firefighting equipment on hand.

# Communication Information Resident Survey

## Be part of the conversation!

As part of ongoing efforts to improve communications, Yellowhead County welcomes and encourages your input and feedback.

Do you get all the information you need? What are we missing - let us know? Your input is crucial to how we look at getting information out to you.

What other ways would you like to receive information from Yellowhead County about events, new bylaws, community projects, job postings, notifications?

Go to [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca/input](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca/input) to take part in our survey.

*Feel free to contact Yellowhead County's Chief Administrative Officer or Directors with questions, concerns or comments.*

Jack Ramme

– Chief Administrative Officer

Barb Lyons

– Director of Corporate and Planning Services

Don O'Quinn

– Director of Infrastructure Services

Debbie Charest

– Director of Community and Protective Services

Yellowhead County  
780-723-4800  
1-800-665-6030  
Fax: 780-723-5066

Edson Office (Main)  
2716 - 1st Avenue  
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Hours of Operation  
Monday to Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Office Locations

Wildwood Office  
53404 Rge Rd 92A  
Wildwood, AB

**After-Hours Emergency Assistance Line:  
Utilities, Transportation, and Bylaw: 780-723-3221**

*Visit the Yellowhead County website – it's a quick and effective way to get the information you need on municipal programs and services.*

Visit [www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca](http://www.yellowheadcounty.ab.ca)

